

TRANSMITTAL # 5

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2008

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Roger B. Madsen, Director

Roger B Madsen

SUBJECT: Investments in Manufacturing – Workforce Investment Act Setaside

ACTION REQUESTED: Support the continued use of Governor's 15 percent WIA reserve funds for Manufacturers in Region II

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Development Council, at its meeting on Oct. 3, 2007, approved the continued use of the Governor's 15 percent reserve funds for Regions III and IV to support and facilitate new strategies to assist the manufacturing industry recruit and retain a quality work force. In addition, the council voted to support Region VI's proposal to utilize the Governor's 15 percent reserve funds as leveraged funds to support the expansion of EITC's radiation technician program.

A total of \$150,000 was approved from the Governor's 15 percent reserve funds to support the continued efforts in Regions III, IV and VI. All targeted funds must be expended by June 30, 2008, and any unspent funds will be returned to the Governor's general fund.

UPDATE:

North Idaho Manufacturing Association is currently reviewing the feasibility of utilizing these funds to support a technical training program to train the work force for manufacturers within the region. Specifically, the association is working on grant proposals with the Economic Development Association and the Idaho Gem Community Implementation. Both grants will be working toward developing a work force for local manufacturers. Local school principals, superintendents and high school teachers will be involved with manufacturers in developing curriculum to provide hands-on math and science labs for high school students interested in manufacturing.

The use of the Governor's setaside is uncertain at this point. WIA funds must be used to support skill training and matched by employers. However, we would like the opportunity to continue the dialogue and develop possible scenarios that will meet manufacturer's needs within the region.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend the council approve an additional \$50,000 be reserved from the Governor's setaside for use by Region II to design a training program to meet the needs of manufacturers in the region. All other conditions related to the manufacturing setaside and approved by the council will apply to North Central Idaho.

Contacts: Primary: Leandra Burns (208) 332-3570 ext. 3327
Secondary: Cheryl Brush (208) 332-3570 ext. 3312